

The Third Joint Meeting of the New Jersey Commission on Environmental

Education (NJCEE) and the Inter-agency Work Group (IWG)

Wednesday, February 24, 1998

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

DEP Natural Resource Building, 3rd Floor Conference Room, 501 E. State Street,
Trenton

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| 8:45 a.m. | COFFEE, TEA
Distribute copies of: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Citizen's Guide to the NJ State Dev. And Redev. Plan- Executive Summary to the NJ State Dev. And Redev. Plan- Proceedings of the Conference on Environmental Values, 1995 | |
| 9:00 | <i>Welcome, introductions</i>
Summary of last meeting
Review and acceptance of minutes
Review the day's agenda for additions or changes | Lou Iozzi |
| 9:15 | <i>Discussion and updates on the following:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">* The Public Meetings Act* The DOE's ed. technical centers - summary* NJ Env. Ed. Week 98 - status, activities* Update: Development of the website* Discussion: Opportunities for funding | Tanya Oznowich
Suzanne Willis
Tanya Oznowich
Frank Gallagher
Frank Gallagher |
| 10:00 | BREAK | |
| 10:15 | <i>A report from the NJ Dept. of Education</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">* How standards are being implemented* Status of the frameworks processes* Distribution of the science frameworks sampler* Assessment - process, status, issues* The DOE's continuing ed. proposal - summary | Bruce Marganoff |
| 11:00 | <i>Discussion: Moving ahead with our priorities</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">* Establishment of a steering committee - purpose, membership, when to meet, etc.* Establishment of priority-based committees, <u>such as</u>:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Finance Committee - fundraising, funding opp's, grants, partnerships- Network Development Committee - website, inventory, promotions of- Communications Committee - annual report, plan distribution, public info. | Lou Iozzi |

- Program Committee - NJ Env. Ed. Week, NJ Global Forum, awards program
(These are TENTATIVE and compiled from priority list on pg. 6 of minutes.)

** Committee assignments, charges and
room assignments*

Lou Iozzi

- Consider mixing new members with former members
- Should work group members meet separately
or should they join the committees?

12:00 noon BREAK TO BUY LUNCH - WORKING LUNCH

12:45 p.m. ** Committee discussion on:*

Committee Leaders

- Purpose and role of the committee
- Membership list
- Larger tasks/outcomes and steps needed to achieve each
- Establish time frame - immediate, within 3-years, within 5-years
- Establish budgetary needs (within estimated time frame)
- Other topics, as needed

1:45

Leaders

** Committees share findings with entire group*

Committee

- Document recommendations

2:30 p.m.

** Group discussion on:*

Lou Iozzi

- How often should committees meet?
- Establish a meeting schedule for 1998
- Agenda items for next meeting
- Closing remarks, depart

***New Jersey Commission on Environmental Education and
Inter-agency Work Group
Meeting Notes for Wednesday, February 24, 1998***

Present: Richard Belcher, Emile DeVito, Mimi Dunne, Joan Elliot, Frank Gallagher, Anne Galli, Toni Hendrickson, Lou Iozzi, Paul Kaleda, Pat Kane, Christine Keresztury, John Kirk, Jacques Lebel, Bruce Marganoff, Kathleen McLaughlin, Ray Mueller, Tanya Oznovich, Jim Shissias, Helen Skerratt, Suzanne Willis, Karen Wintress

Observing: Dolly Tedder, DEP, Office of Communications

Meeting Notes:

**** Paul Kaleda introduced himself and shared information about his program.*** Paul is the Coordinator of Employment and Training Programs in the Division of Workforce Development. He will be the NJ Department of Labor's representative on the commission.

**** Dolly Tedder introduced herself as an observer.*** Dolly works in the DEP Office of Communications.

**** Addition to the January 21 meeting minutes:*** Page 5, Christine Keresztury seconded the motion regarding the \$6,200.00 expenditures. ***Anne Galli made a motion to accept the 1/21 meeting notes with the addition; Pat Kane seconded the motion; all in favor.***

**** No changes to the meeting agenda.***

**** Tanya Oznovich provided a brief update on how the commission meetings are being promoted as per the Public Meetings Act.*** The meetings are being publicized via 3 publications (1 is also electronic). The group agreed to allow observers to introduce themselves at the beginning of the meeting and to add any of their issues or topics to the end of the agenda. The commission also agreed to allow 30-minutes at the end of the meeting to discuss the added topic or issue, should the need occur.

**** Suzanne Willis provided an overview of the state's ETTC's (Educational Technology Training Centers), with particular emphasis on the site in Hunterdon County.*** Some of these sites are housed in the DOE's former "academies." They are county-based and are becoming useful sites for sharing and training. They also help to encourage local partnerships. (Suzanne provided comprehensive handouts which will be available on 4/28).

**** Tanya Oznovich provided an update on DEP's Earth Day activities and any other events and projects going on in New Jersey.*** Her office is maintaining a master list of events. While Tanya submitted some project and event ideas for consideration in the Governor's Office, she did not know if there would be any formal Earth Day event or ceremony this year, much less one involving the Governor or commission and work group members. Commission members were asked to keep 4/21 open, in case the student summit

is held again. Tanya would communicate with all members if the event solidifies. A request for the Governor's participation had been submitted. She distributed copies of last year's "NJ Environmental Education Week Proclamation," signed by the governor. She is not sure if one will be signed this year. John Kirk suggested that next year we develop a school package that infuses the Governor's priorities and issues into the curricula, to be practiced and used during NJ Environmental Education Week.

** Frank Gallagher provided an update on the developing environmental education homepage, housed and maintained at the Center for Environmental and Agricultural Education at Cook College, Rutgers University.* The order for necessary hardware and work was submitted to DEP and was being processed. The inventory that had been done for NJ expertise now includes a database of about 3,000 professionals, though it is two years old. Based upon the list of environmental topics and issues that educators would like current information, resources and data on, Frank is having his Rutgers University students conduct research on some of these topics. This information will be entered into the homepage as it is finalized.

** Frank Gallagher provided comments on the Governor's interests in open space preservation.* Her administration has made a \$2 million per year commitment to this effort and "how" to carry it out best is currently being explored. There are many correlations between open space preservation and stewardship/education. Frank feels that the Plan of Action and the work of the commission support the knowledge, attitudes and skills needed by New Jersey citizens to protect and maintain open space areas. Jim Shissias agreed that the commission should be programmed in to how these funds are being spent. DEP Assistant Commissioner Jim Hall assured Frank that \$100,000 for education and interpretation is not an unlikely request. It was recommended that Lou draft a letter to former Assemblywoman Maureen Ogden, Chair of the New Jersey Council on the Outdoors, to discuss the commission's role in this effort. The letter should be cc to all council members. In addition, Lou and Frank should meet with Jim Hall and with Gov's representative to the commission Eileen McGinnis, to discuss these details. The council held three public hearings on their report and "education" was a prominent topic at all three hearings.

** Dr. Bruce Marganoff, NJ Department of Education, provided commission and work group members with an introduction to, and an update on, the state content standards, the developing frameworks, and the statewide assessment process.* Bruce used overheads and a comprehensive presentation to discuss the historical development of these efforts, their contents and purposes, the cross-content workplace readiness standards, and how all of these are being received and addressed in school districts around the state.

- *Regarding the standards,* Bruce was also pleased that the science standards have received the highest compliments and least criticisms both in the state and on a national basis, primarily because all of the indicators are measurable and the material is neutral and unbiased. Bruce was also complimentary of environmental education in that its thematic and interdisciplinary approaches provides strong support for standards

implementation. In being concerned that we may have lost environmental science standard 5.12, he made sure that its indicators were "cut up" and shuffled into other science standards in order to maintain a presence.

- ***Regarding the frameworks***, these are simply examples of collected activities that support each indicator. They are not a statewide curriculum, which is still developed within and by each school district. The frameworks are for teachers who never taught science; have taught science but need more ideas; or, must become more familiar with new technologies and methodologies. The frameworks are meant to take away a teacher's "fear factor."
- ***Regarding assessment***, the 4th and 8th grade tests are being piloted this spring. In the year 2002 students in 11th grade will be required to take a standards-based test in order to graduate. Because science was never tested, there is no database with such questions or results and pilot tests (with environmental questions) are being implemented. Question types include multiple choice, T/F, short answer and essay, and hands-on. The pilot tests help to measure the worth of the questions, not the student. The DOE is monitoring responses by the student's sex, race, location, etc.
- ***Regarding professional development***, the DOE has proposed a program to keep teachers current with their training (and all of the new content and skills that they must teach). It involves each teacher obtaining 100 hours of professional development for re-certification of their own license, every 5 years. This is primarily because technology is changing so fast - one example being that 5 years ago CD rom's were unheard of and in 1989 only 13 school districts had computers. Electronic training seems a strong method on the horizon. Teachers must get used to using computers, Internet and distance learning. Every educator has computer availability at a local library, at minimum. They just have to find these resources. For example, 1 teacher of the Japanese language in New Jersey interacts with 200 classes in the state.
- ***In closing*** . . . John Kirk commented that he's pleased with the scope and sequence set up in the standards. Karen Wintress expressed concern for the teachers who do not yet have computer access. Karen, Bruce and Anne discussed HMDC Environment Center's pilot program utilizing distance learning for environmental education enrichment and the pro's and con's of not being able to provide participants with the "experiential" component. Lou Iozzi expressed past concerns with this process (and specialized attention, homework, etc.) and the effectiveness of this method.

**** Lou Iozzi carried out the formation of various committees that Tanya Oznovich drafted for discussion***, based upon the priority actions and responsibilities expressed earlier by commission and work group members.

- ***The Steering Committee***: This is the Executive Board of the commission that will establish the work to be done and the agenda for each meeting. They will do the

"legwork" between meetings and will meet between commission and work group meetings. Membership should include the chair and vice chair (as ex-officio members) and the head of each standing committee. It should also include an Inter-agency Work Group liaison. Jim Shissias agreed that many boards and councils have an executive group to help make the larger meetings focused and productive. The role and legal powers of the Inter-agency Work Group are also in question. Lou stated that work group members should be on the commission's committees but not chair a committee. The mixed involvement is important. Pat Kane raised the question of who watch dogs the work of the commission? Who establishes deadlines and timeframes? Lou agreed and said that the commission needs to update the plan, we have limited funds, and we need to raise money.

- ***The Finance Committee:*** Christine K., Pane K., Jim S. (no chair established?); The commission and work group must produce proposals; the committee must find out what funders and partnerships are available; the commission must discuss where funds would be housed; one possibility is with the Alliance for New Jersey Environmental Education (ANJEE), with 501-C3 status. Some funders may not want to deposit funds in to our state trust fund. The commission should invite expert fundraisers in for counsel. We need base line funds and project funds. We should also assure that environmental education is included in the Governor's plans for open space funding and other similar initiatives.
- ***The Network Committee:*** Frank G., Bruce M., Ray M., Toni H., Joan E. (Frank - chair); The "network" concept will include content areas of information (ie. issues and topics) the list is already comprehensive, technology resources and instruction, a matrix of projects with the CCCS's, a directory of people and organizational resources, funding opportunities and possible "selling spaces." Funding opportunities already include EPA, grants, foundations, advertising, etc. Such funding is needed for the statewide inventory, matrixing, and promotions.
- ***The Program Committee:*** Tanya O., Helen S., Suzanne W., Richard B., Paul K., Joe E. (Tanya - chair); Committee goals are to establish or to deliver the programmatic responsibilities of the commission and work group, as established by the Plan of Action. Such programs may be audience-specific AND broad-based. Such efforts include support for Earth Day and New Jersey Environmental Education Week, the promotion of statewide and year-round programs that support Plan of Action priorities (ie. enrichment), and theme-based programming that highlights the Governor's or state's priority interests (ie. open space initiatives). Information about such programs should include WHAT is being done, WHY, WHO is doing it and WHO is it for, and HOW is it being done. Regarding EE Week, we should NOW see what other states are doing and should pick a theme that is common to all commission members. The theme should be engaging, high energy and positive. We should also look into a special award that no other environmental ed. organization is currently presenting.

- ***The Communications Committee:*** Anne G., Karen W., Kathleen M., Mimi D., Emile D. (no chair established?); see attached meeting minutes (the committee met together on 2/24 and provided extensive and additional notes to what was discussed at this meeting).
- ***Work Schedule:***
 - a. Standing committees should meet on their own - monthly or less;
 - b. The Inter-agency Work Group should meet periodically;
 - c. The commission should meet every other month; and,
 - d. The Executive Committee should meet every other month, between commission meetings.
- ***Next joint meeting of the commission and work group:***
Tuesday, April 28, 1998 - Trenton Area, 9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Submitted By: T. Oznovich, 4/98